

Draper councilman defends liquor vote

By Maria Titze
Deseret News staff writer

DRAPER — His critics call him **Hard Liquor Lyn**.

Time and time again, he was the swing vote in favor of beer and alcohol license requests on the Draper City Council.

Lyn Kimball doesn't drink. But the former LDS bishop says he feels a duty to speak up for a minority of his constituents who do.

"Everybody ought to be accorded equal treatment even if they don't agree on the same values," he said.

Now that the debate over booze in Draper has lost some of its fervor with the defeat of the Alcohol Initiative, which would have disallowed any further liquor licenses, Kimball is stepping down. He wants to serve an LDS mission with his wife.

"I think (the defeat of the initiative) is a reflection on the common sense attitudes of people here in Draper and their willingness to deal appropriately with their neighbors, even if they disagree with them," Kimball said.

Bruce Davis, co-founder of Citizens for a Safer Draper, which sponsored the initiative, said the group was organized because of "City Council members who were being irresponsible in regards to alcohol license issuance."

"To be bluntly honest, Kimball had a two-year history of pro-alcohol voting," said Davis, who hung the **Hard Liquor Lyn** moniker on Kimball.

"He stood up one evening and said even alcohol drinkers need a spokesman," Davis said. "Well, yes, they do, but it doesn't need to be a former Mormon bishop."

Fellow council member Melanie Dansie says Kimball has been "called on the carpet more than any of us because of his religious

background, and that's really too bad."

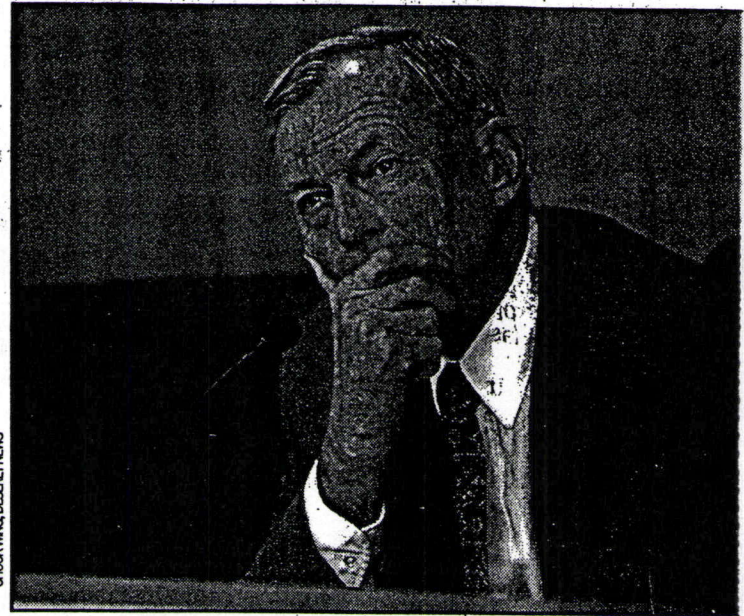
Councilman Paul McCarty, who usually votes against Kimball on alcohol-related questions, says he bears no grudges.

"I sincerely respect this man," he said. "He sticks to the issues. We both speak our minds, and that's that."

Kimball said he uses the law as the measuring stick for granting or denying a beer or liquor license.

"I look at city ordinance, the state statute and the particular history of the establishment in question," he said. "I try not to make this a religious issue."

But Kimball said he was raised to believe that being a good Christian means loving your neighbor. "And that means getting acquainted with them, understanding their position, even when it's not yours."



Lyn Kimball says everyone "ought to be accorded equal treatment."



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